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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cholesterol-reducing agent comprising at least one carob product, at least one n-3 fatty acid and at least one cholesterol-reducing active compound, the cholesterol-reducing active compound being selected from one or more of the following substances: statins, inhibitors of bile acid resorption, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, fibrates, nicotinic acid derivatives, bile acid sequestrants, phytosterols, plant stanols and also cholesterol-reducing plant extracts, said agent providing a greater reduction in cholesterol level than the sum of the effects when the carob product, n-3 fatty acid or cholesterol-reducing active compound are administered alone.

2. (Original) The agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carob product is carob fruit flesh or a product produced from carob fruit flesh.

3. (Original) The agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carob product is carob fiber.

4. (Original) The agent as claimed in claim 3, wherein the carob fiber is insoluble in water.

5. (Currently Amended) The agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the n-3 fatty acid is a single polyunsaturated fatty acid having a chain length > C12 having at least two double bonds, or its ester, triglyceride, phospholipid, glycolipid, sphingolipid, wax or sterol ester.

6. (Original) The agent as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first of the at least two double bonds starting from the alkyl end is constituted between the carbon atoms C3 and C4.

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7. (Previously Presented) The agent as claimed in claim 5, wherein the n-3 fatty acid is selected from one or more of the following substances: all-cis-9,12,15-octadecatrienoic acid (ALA), all-cis-6,9,12,15-octadecatetraenoic acid, all-cis-11,14,17-eicosatrienoic acid, all-cis-8,11,14,17-eicosatetraenoic acid, all-cis-5,8,11,14,17-eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), all-cis-13,16,19-docosatrienoic acid, all-cis-7,10,13,16,19-docosapentaenoic acid (DPA) and all-cis-4,7,10,13,16,19-docosahexaenoic acid (DHA).

8. (Original) The agent as claimed in claim 7, wherein the n-3 fatty acid is all-cis-4,7,10,13,16,19-docosahexaenoic acid (DHA).

9. (Previously Presented) The agent as claimed in claim 5, wherein the n-3 fatty acid is not derivatized.

10. (Previously Presented) A cholesterol-reducing combination preparation comprising at least one carob product, at least one n-3 fatty acid and at least one cholesterol-reducing active compound in separate administration forms.

11. (Previously Presented) The cholesterol-reducing combination preparation as claimed in claim 10, in which the carob product and the n-3 fatty acid are present in a food.

12. (Previously Presented) The cholesterol-reducing combination preparation as claimed in claim 10, in which the active compound is present in a food or a drug.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for producing an agent as claimed in claim 1, which comprises mixing at least one carob product and at least one n-3 fatty acid and at least one cholesterol-reducing active compound with one another.

14. (Previously Presented) A drug comprising an agent as claimed in claim 1.

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15. (Previously Presented) A drug as claimed in claim 11 wherein said drug is a cholesterol-reducing drug.

16. (Previously Presented) A drug as claimed in claim 11 wherein said drug is a hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia or arteriosclerosis.

17. (Previously Presented) A drug as claimed in claim 11, said drug positively shifting the HDL/LDL ratio.

18. (Previously Presented) An agent as claimed in claim 1 said agent further comprising an additional supply of n-3 fatty acids.

19. (Previously Presented) Pet food comprising an agent as claimed in claim 1.

20. (New) An agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein said water-insoluble carob fiber is administered in a daily dose ranging from 1 to 15 g.

21. (New) An agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein said n-3 fatty acid is derived from vegetable oil or oils from microorganisms.

22. (New) A cholesterol-reducing agent comprising at least one carob product, at least one n-3 fatty acid and at least one cholesterol-reducing active compound,

said n-3 fatty acid consisting of one or more of: all-cis-9,12,15-octadecatrienoic acid (ALA), all-cis-6,9,12,15-octadecatetraenoic acid, all-cis-11,14,17-eicosatrienoic acid, all-cis-13,16,19-docosatrienoic acid, all-cis-7,10,13,16,19-docosapentaenoic acid (DPA) and all-cis-4,7,10,13,16, 19-docosahexaenoic acid (DHA),

said cholesterol-reducing active compound being selected from one or more of the following substances: statins, inhibitors of bile acid resorption, cholesterol absorption inhibitors,

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fibrates, nicotinic acid derivatives, bile acid sequestrants, phytosterols, plant stanols and also cholesterol-reducing plant extracts,

wherein said agent provides a greater reduction in cholesterol level than the sum of the effects when the carob product, n-3 fatty acid or cholesterol-reducing active compound are administered alone.

23. (New) An agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein said n-3 fatty acid is administered in a daily dose ranging from 50 mg to 600 mg.

24. (New) An agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cholesterol-reducing compound is present at 10 to 50% of the dosage which would be recommended in the absence of said carob product and said n-3 fatty acid.